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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 29 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the brutal killing of 22 kidnapped Serbs by terrorists in Klecka (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 157 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanović**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/150

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Annex

Statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the brutal killing of 22 kidnapped Serbs by terrorists in Klecka

The competent authorities in the Republic of Serbia have confirmed that terrorists have perfidiously and brutally killed 22 kidnapped Serbs in their well-known stronghold of Klecka. In order to cover up the tracks of this crime, they used a lime processing plant as a crematory of sorts, where they burnt the bodies of the murdered civilians. This atrocious crime is documented by incontrovertible evidence and the accounts of two arrested members of the terrorist organization who are directly responsible for the killing of these civilians.

This most serious and brutal of the discovered crimes committed by terrorists thus far has been done following a Nazi recipe. It proves that the killers were brutal and that they not only killed, kidnapped, raped, burned people's homes and destroyed their property and carried out subversive acts, but also went so far, in their crazed Nazi obsession, to commit the cowardly act of burning the bodies of their victims.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has for a long time now been drawing the attention of the international community to the need for a strong and clear condemnation of terrorist gangs in Kosovo and Metohija and for abandoning the policy of double standards, draining all channels and cutting off all forms of assistance to them from abroad.

A tolerant attitude on the part of some countries, which allow in their territory the activities of the outposts, leaders and recruitment centres of the terrorist organizations from Kosovo and Metohija, as well as their financing and training, represents an encouragement to terrorists and the commission of terrorist crimes, and presents the most serious obstacle in the efforts aimed at resuming the dialogue and achieving a peaceful political solution.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, therefore, once again calls on the international community as a whole and on all countries individually to condemn this outrageous crime clearly and most strongly and to support in this context the legitimate struggle against terrorism by applying the same standards as in all other cases. Yugoslavia also urges energetic efforts to nip in the bud all sources of finance, recruitment, training, arming and infiltration of terrorists into Yugoslavia, and it demands that the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army be listed as a terrorist organization.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia makes a clear distinction between its citizens belonging to the Albanian ethnic minority, who are equal to all other persons in every respect, and the insane champions of the idea of a "Greater Albania", who pose the greatest threat to Balkan peace and stability.

Yugoslavia believes that only a joint, firm and equal stance by all countries and international factors regarding all forms and proponents of terrorism can ensure an effective struggle against this universal evil facing mankind today.